



Texas College Founder's Day
set for March 16th
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Jarvis Christian College
President
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Tyler Junior College School of
Nursing taking applications for Fall
LVN Program page 7

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Web: www.texasinformer.com
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P.O. Box 332
Rusk, Texas 75785

Destini Ward Youth of the Year nominee



Photo by Nancy Crase/CrasePhoto.
Sixteen-year-old Destini Ward, daughter of Gary Ward formerly of Rusk and Sharon Ward, was diagnosed with spina bifida as an infant, but that hasn't slowed her down. She has overcome debilitating pain and physical limitations to become the strong and confident young woman she is today. Ward can be found at the Phoenix Swift Kids Branch of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Metropolitan Phoenix nearly every day. She's been going since she was 12.

See Destini Ward pg. 4

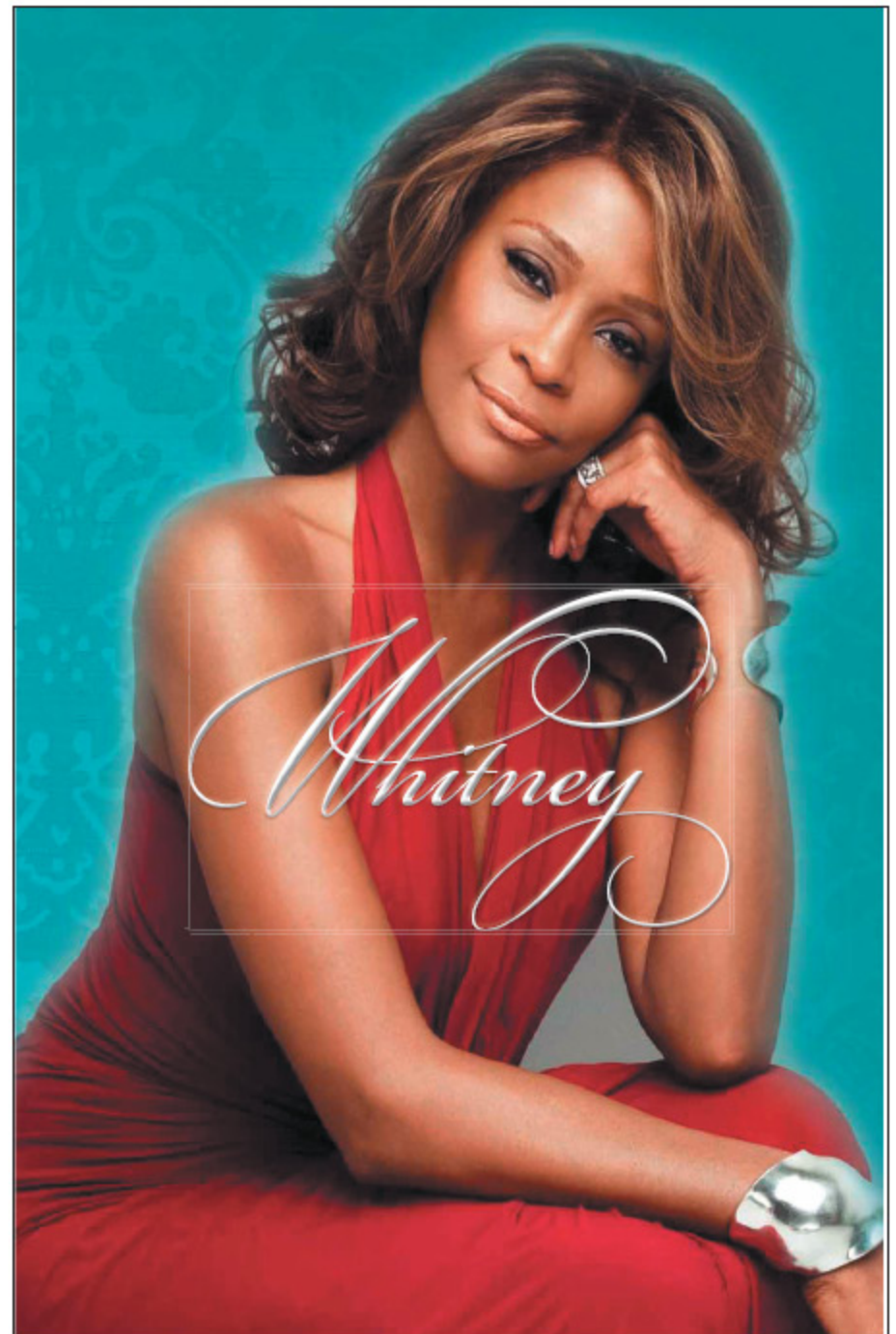
Sturns files for RISD Board Position

Oliver Sturns of Rusk has filed for a position on the RISD School Board of Trustees. The election will be held Saturday, May 12, 2012 at the RISD Administration office from 7am - 7pm..

Alto Economic Development Corp launches Health Fair

"Health Fair & Wellness Education Seminar" launching a monthly healthcare program on St. Patrick's Day March 17, 2012 from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM. Hosted by Alto Economic Development Corp. and in partnership with (event location) Alto 1st Baptist Church, 235 E. San Antonio St, Alto, TX 75925. Fun activities: Moonwalk, Balloon Artist, bingo & domino games, K9 Officer with Drug-free demos, Crimestopper Texting & Driving teens simulator, cooking demos (samples), and many door prizes. Local healthcare providers will offer specialized screenings, scans and educational speakers for dentistry, podiatry, pediatrics, optometrist, massage therapy, fitness trainer, chiropractor, and mental health. Three special drives: Blood drive, mobile phone drive (donate your old cellular to benefit the Crisis Center), & digital mammography mobile. Interested person(s) to sign-up for drives or be a participant should contact AEDC 936-858-4412, email altoedc@gmail.com and visit altoedc.org

Whitney Houston Celebration of Life



Whitney Houston's tragic death leaves family, friends and fans at a loss. (See full story page 3)

EDITORIAL



Pursuing
justice
for the
children,
poor now

Marian Wright Elderman NNPA

I begin each year with a women's spiritual retreat at CDF-Haley Farm's leadership development center in prayer, silence and song seeking God's guidance for the year ahead. Our very thoughtful retreat leader, Shannon Daley-Harris, never fails to inspire and challenge us with her Bible study and stories. This year was no exception. She reminded us of God's non-negotiable demand through the prophets of Israel to pursue justice for the poor and to defend the orphan and widow at a time when the word poor barely enters our political leaders' mouths and public discourse. She also reminded us that pursue is a word demanding

effort and eagerness and not just respecting or following justice. Shannon then shared the story of Victor Perez, in the news in October 2010, to illustrate what pursuing justice means. Perez is a construction worker by trade but was unemployed for three years. He picked grapes to try to make ends meet. On a fall day he was at his home in Fresno, Calif., talking with his cousin about a recent Amber Alert.

This Amber Alert was for an 8-year-old girl who had been abducted in his area. As Perez and his cousin were standing there talking, he spotted a vehicle that looked like the one in the Amber Alert. So Perez leapt into his truck and took off in pursuit although he was nervous that the man driving the vehicle might have a weapon. Each time Perez pulled up to try to cut off the vehicle, the man protested, "I don't have no time, and sped up to try to get away."

See Justice page 11

March is Red Cross Month

Tyler, TX. — During March, the American Red Cross is asking everyone to help people in need by supporting the lifesaving services it provides.

"Please remember those who need our help and support the Red Cross by making a donation, becoming a volunteer, taking a class, or giving blood," said Tammy Prater, executive director, American Red Cross, serving the Tyler/Longview areas. "We want to thank everyone for their generosity, which has enabled us help people here at home, across the United States, and around the world." One of the easiest and most effective ways to support the American Red Cross during March is Red Cross Month is to become an online "Hero" for the organization. "Heroes for the American Red Cross is a grassroots fundraising and awareness campaign that gives you the chance to make a big, lasting difference — and to be recognized for it, too", said Prater. Utilizing current technology, anyone can log on to <http://american.redcross.org/heroes> and start raising funds to help people in need. March is Red Cross Month, first proclaimed in 1943 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Since that time, every president, including President Obama, has designated March as Red Cross Month. The American Red Cross is synonymous with helping people, and has been doing so for more than 130 years.

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The Red Cross responds to nearly 70,000 disasters a year in this country, providing shelter, food, emotional support and other necessities to those affected. It provides 24-hour support to members of the military, veterans and their families — in war zones, military hospitals and on military installations around the world; collects and distributes more than 40 percent of the nation's blood supply and trains more than 9 million people in first aid, water safety and other life-saving skills every year. The Red Cross responds to nearly 70,000 disasters a year in this country, providing shelter, food, emotional support and other necessities to those affected. It provides 24-hour support to members of the military, veterans and their families — in war zones, military hospitals and on military installations around the world; collects and distributes more than 40 percent of the nation's blood supply and trains more than 9 million people in first aid, water safety and other life-saving skills every year.



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Letters to the Editor Policy

We welcome your letters to the editor. Please send to P. O. Box 332, Rusk, Texas or informernews08@aol.com. Letters must include name of the sender.

Whitney Houston A Celebration of Life

August 9, 1963 † February 12, 2012

Born August 9, 1963 in Newark, New Jersey to John and Cissy Houston, Whitney Houston almost seemed destined from birth to become a singer. Her mother Cissy Houston, cousin Dionne Warwick and godmother Aretha Franklin were all legendary figures in American gospel and soul music. Cissy Houston was the choir minister at New Hope Baptist Church, and it was there that a young Whitney got her start. Even as a child, Whitney was able to wow audiences; she later told interviewer Diane Sawyer that a rapturous response from the congregation at New Hope had a powerful effect upon her: "I think I knew then that [my singing ability] was an infectious thing that God had given me."

By the time she turned 15, Whitney was performing often with her mother and around the same time, she was discovered by a photographer who was awed by her natural beauty. She soon became an extremely sought-after teenage model. Whitney became one of the first African American women to appear on the cover of Seventeen magazine but music remained her true love.

When she was 19, Whitney Houston was discovered in a nightclub by the renowned Clive Davis of Arista Records, who signed her immediately and took the helm of her career as she navigated from gospel to pop stardom.

In 1983, Houston made her debut on national television, appearing on The Merv Griffin Show to sing "Home" from the musical The Wiz. She and Davis spent the next two years working on her debut album, finding the best producers and songwriters available to showcase her amazing vocal talent. In 1985, she released her debut album Whitney Houston and

almost immediately became a smash pop sensation. Over the next year, her hit singles "Saving All My Love for You" and "How Will I Know" helped the album reach the top of the charts, where it stayed for fourteen non-consecutive weeks. Houston won a Grammy in 1986 for "Saving All My Love for You"; the award was presented to the singer by her cousin Dionne Warwick.

Houston followed the monumental success of her first album with a second release, Whitney, in 1987. That record, too, went platinum many times over and won more Grammy

Awards, leading to a successful world tour. During this time, the singer also appeared at a concert for Nelson Mandela's birthday and founded the Whitney Houston Foundation for Children, a nonprofit organization that funds projects to help needy children over the world. By 1992, Whitney Houston was on top of the world. That year she married the R&B singer Bobby Brown, formerly of New Edition. A year later on March 4, 1993, Whitney gave birth to a daughter Bobbi Kristina. Whitney Houston continued to progress in her career, crossing over successfully into acting in 1992 by starring opposite

Kevin Costner in the wildly popular The Bodyguard. With this movie, she set a trend for her films to follow: in each film she also released a hit single, creating sensational record sales for the soundtracks. Her smash single from The Bodyguard, a cover of Dolly Parton's 1974 "I Will Always Love You," proved to be Houston's biggest hit ever, spending



Whitney Houston

a record-breaking fourteen weeks atop the U.S. charts. The soundtrack album went on to win Houston three Grammys, including Album of the Year and Record of the Year.

Later in the 1990s, Houston also starred in The Preacher's Wife and Waiting to Exhale, both accompanied by hit soundtracks as well.

In 1998, Houston released My Love Is Your Love, her first non-soundtrack studio album in many years, and it earned her another Grammy. Her collaboration with Mariah Carey in the animated film The Prince of Egypt produced a single, "When You Believe," which won an Academy Award. In 2002, Houston released her fifth album titled, Just Whitney. In 2009 Houston released a new album, I Look To You, which

reached number one on the charts. Since then, she has been honored by BET and the NAACP for her lifetime of achievement. On February 11, 2012,

Whitney Houston departed this life in Beverly Hills, CA. She was preceded in death by her father, John Houston. She leaves behind to cherish memories and celebrate her life, her daughter, Bobbi Kristina and her mother, Cissy Houston. Her iconic voice will live on with her family, friends, and fans forever.

In Mrs. Houston's own words, "The Holy Spirit would speak to me and it would guide me. And I wouldn't know how I would get to this place or that place. Or how I did this or how I was going into the studio and sing again. But I did it."

Destini Ward
from page 1

The Ironwood High School junior, also known as "Hot Wheelz" by friends and club members, navigates life in a wheelchair. Ward balances Club involvement with academic achievement and volunteer projects like helping feed homeless families in need.

chapter at the statewide competition, will be held from 5:30 to 9:00 p.m. at the Arizona Biltmore Resort and Spa.

For Ward, the club provides a safe haven and a relaxed social environment. Staff mentors have also helped her outline a roadmap for success in college and encouraged her to explore a wide variety of programs, helping her discover a love of creative arts and volleyball.

Her time at the club helped her realize her love of working with younger children. That passion inspired her to want to go to Grand Canyon University to become a pediatric nurse, so she could help children with physical challenges.

Ward is one of a dozen outstanding Valley youth who vied to become the Boys & Girls Clubs of Metropolitan Phoenix Youth of the Year during the "Today's Kids, Tomorrow's Stars" event which was held Feb. 18. The event, which ultimately chose one youth to represent the "I've gotten to explore everything, including being a mentor to the younger kids. Being part of the club helped me think more in depth about life after high school and find the courage to be myself," Ward says.

Religion



Christians Celebrate Easter

On Easter Sunday, Christians celebrate the resurrection of the Lord, Jesus Christ. It is typically the most well-attended Sunday service of the year for Christian churches. Christians believe, according to Scripture, that Jesus came back to life, or was raised from the dead, three days after his death on the cross. As part of the Easter season, the death of Jesus Christ by crucifixion is commemorated on Good Friday, always the Friday just before Easter. Through His death, burial, and resurrection, Jesus paid the penalty for sin, thus purchasing for all who believe in Him, eternal life in Christ Jesus. Good Friday occurs two days before Easter Sunday in the United States. This year Friday, April 6th is Good Friday. It is the day when Christians commemorate Jesus Christ's crucifixion, which plays an important part in the Christian faith. It is not a federal holiday in the United States, although it is a state holiday in some states.

This is an important event in Christianity, as it represents the sacrifices and suffering in Jesus' life. The crucifixion was the culmination of a number of events in Holy Week, including: the triumphal return of Jesus to Jerusalem on Palm Sunday; the washing of the disciples' feet by Jesus; and the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday.

Some churches organize a prayer vigil on Good Friday for various causes, such as for cancer patients or for the American troops who have been sent to the middle-east.

Symbols

The crucifix, or cross, which represents the way Jesus died, is an important symbol seen on Good Friday. Some crosses bear a figure of Christ. Other symbols of Good Friday include black or purple cloth used to cover the cross, paintings and statues in churches and some homes to signify mourning.

Lenten Season

The traditional purpose of Lent is the penitential preparation of the believer—through prayer, penance, repentance, almsgiving, and self-denial. Its institutional purpose is heightened in the annual commemoration of Holy Week, marking the Death and Resurrection of Jesus, which recalls the events of the Passion of Christ on Good Friday, which then culminates in the celebration on Easter Sunday of

the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. According to the Synoptic gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, Jesus spent forty days fasting in the desert before the beginning of His public ministry, where He endured temptation



by Satan.[2][3] Thus, Lent is described as being forty days long, though different denominations calculate the forty days differently. In many of the Christian churches, Lent is regarded as being forty days long, but the Sundays between Shrove Tuesday and Easter Sunday are not typically regarded as being part of Lent; thus, the date of Shrove Tuesday will typically be slightly more than forty days before Easter Sunday.

LEGAL NOTICE



These Texas Lottery Commission Scratch-Off games will be closing soon:

Game #	Game Name/Odds	\$	Official Close of Game	End Validations Date
1367	Black Onyx 7's Overall odds are 1 in 3.84	\$5	03/18/12	09/14/12
1341	Loteria® Texas Overall odds are 1 in 3.99	\$3	05/02/12	10/29/12
1342	Bonus Break The Bank Overall odds are 1 in 3.81	\$5	05/02/12	10/29/12
1356	Texas Lottery® Black III Overall odds are 1 in 3.32	\$10	05/02/12	10/29/12
1366	Quick 6's Overall odds are 1 in 4.56	\$1	05/02/12	10/29/12
1371	Holiday Gold Overall odds are 1 in 4.23	\$2	05/02/12	10/29/12
1373	Season's Greetings Overall odds are 1 in 3.35	\$10	05/02/12	10/29/12
1374	Armadillo Cash Overall odds are 1 in 4.69	\$1	05/02/12	10/29/12

For detailed odds and game information, visit tlottery.org or call 1-800-377-LOTTO. Must be 18 or older to purchase a ticket. The Texas Lottery supports Texas Education. © 2012 Texas Lottery Commission. All rights reserved.

Forgiveness is not an occasional act; it is a permanent attitude.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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Calendar of events

Thursday is free movie day at the Ross Activity Center. This week's feature film is "Jailhouse Rock," starring Elvis Presley and Judy Tyler. All are welcome. Popcorn and beverages will be available. Show starts at 1 p.m.

The Ross Activity Center will begin serving hot lunches to qualifying senior citizens Monday, March 12, at the Rusk Civic Center, 555 Euclid St. in Rusk. Meals will be provided by Meals on Wheels for a \$3 donation, and will be available every Monday through Friday at the Civic Center. Anyone interested in signing up for lunch may RSVP by calling Cristin Parker at the Civic Center, 903-683-2850, by March 8.

Singletary Memorial Library in Rusk is offering free computer and internet classes at the library, 207 E. Sixth St. Basic Internet classes will meet from 9 to 10 a.m. and Beginning Computer Skills will meet from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. every Thursday through the month of April. Admission is free. Bring your laptop if you have one, since space is limited. For more information call 903-683-5916.

Jordan Health Services will hold free health screenings at 11 a.m. Tuesday, March 20, and every third Tuesday of the month at the Ross Activity Center, 555 Euclid St., Rusk. Blood sugar and pressure tests will be available.

The Ross Activity Center's First Friday Dance will be held Friday, April 6, at the Rusk Civic Center, 555 Euclid St., in Rusk. Admission is \$5 a person. Doors open at 6 p.m.; dancing starts at 7 p.m. Caddo Creek classic country band will provide music. Patrons are welcome to bring snacks and finger foods to share. Nonalcoholic beverages will be available. Dances are sponsored by Friends of Singletary Memorial Library, Senior Care of Jacksonville, the city of Rusk and JP Auto. Proceeds benefit the Friends group and the Ross Activity Center.

Ongoing items

Thursday is free movie day at the Ross Activity Center. Every week a different classic movie will be featured. All are welcome. Popcorn and beverages will be available. Shows start at 1 p.m. every Thursday at the Rusk Civic Center, 555 Euclid St. in Rusk.

Beyond Fitness and the Ross Activity Center offers free low impact aerobics classes at 9 a.m. every Thursday at the Rusk Civic Center. Classes will focus on physical fitness routines designed to help keep senior citizens fit and active. Other free exercise sessions are also held at 9 a.m. Mondays and Tuesdays at the Civic Center.

The Ross Activity Center offers card and domino games at 10 a.m. every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Games are free and open to the public. Refreshments are provided. The Activity Center is located in the Rusk Civic Center, 555 Euclid St., in Rusk.

Free beginning clogging lessons with the Cherokee Cloggers are offered at 5:30 p.m. every Thursday at the Rusk Civic Center.

Beyond Fitness holds zumba classes at 7 p.m. every Tuesday at the Rusk Civic Center. Admission is \$5 a person.

Got an American or state flag that needs to be properly retired? Drop them at the Ross Senior Activity Center, 555 Euclid St., Rusk, and Cub Scout Pack 227 will retire collected flags with honor during the pack's annual flag retirement ceremonies. The Activity Center is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

RUSK HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1970

WHAT: Class Reunion

WHEN: Saturday, May 5, 2012, 10:00 a.m. Till 4:00 p.m.

WHERE: KOA Camp Ground 745FM 343E, Rusk, Texas

It has been a few years since we had our last class reunion. Several of the 1970 class members thought it would be a GREAT time to get back together once again.

Please join us for our 42nd class reunion for a time of visiting and sharing with one another. Bring pictures of your children, grandchildren, and even great grandchildren.

We will eat lunch around noon and then we can sit and visit with each other and catch up on the past. Lunch will be catered at the cost of \$30.00 per plate (Children 8 years and younger / ½ price)

We would also accept any additional donations for expenses incurred for the building rental and postage.

This will be a family-type atmosphere, so please no alcohol. We will need you to RSVP no later than April 1, 2012 so we can make sure that the catering service will know how many to plan for. So, if you will, complete the form attached and send it back to the address listed along with your check so we will be sure to have the funds to rent the building and pay for the meal.

A limited number of cabins will be available on a first come basis. You may visit ruskkoa.com to see the campground. It is a very nice clean campground. You may contact the KOA Campground at:

(800) 652-4143 for Reservations
(903) 683-6641 for questions
Rusk KOA Campground
P. O. Box 691
745 FM 343 E (Atoy Highway)
Rusk, Texas 75785

Thank you

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

NUMBER ATTENDING: _____

(Make Checks Payable to Rusk High School Class of 1970)

Return to: Rhonda (Quinn) Morrow
P. O. Box 708
Rusk, Tx. 75785

2012 Buffalo Soldiers National Museum Gala Honors Military Healthcare Professionals



Dr. J. Kalavar, Chief of Staff, VAMC-Houston; Dr. Sharon Richie Melvan, Retired Colonel US Army; Captain Paul Matthews, Founder, Buffalo Soldiers National Museum; Dr. Darrick Castleberry, DDS, Founder, The Castleberry Center For Aesthetic Dentistry

2012 Buffalo Soldiers National Museum Gala was held in February of this year "Honoring Our Military Healthcare Professionals" The Buffalo Soldiers National Museum (BSNM) was founded in the year 2000 by a Vietnam veteran and African American military historian, Captain Paul J. Matthews. It is located at 1834 Southmore Blvd, Houston, TX 77004

The museum's Historian is Dr. Franklin D.B. Jackson, a highly decorated Vietnam veteran. The Buffalo Soldiers National Museum is a proud member of the The Houston Museum District. We are the only Museum dedicated primarily to preserving the legacy and honor of the African-American soldier, in the United States of America. The goal of the Buffalo Soldier Museum is to interpret, articulate, collect, display and preserve historical artifacts, documents, videos, prints and other historical memorabilia which details the history of the brave men and women who overcame extreme adversity while gallantly fighting the great American wars. African Americans have served proudly in every great American war. In 1866, through an act of Congress, legislation was adopted to create six all African American Army units. The units were identified as the 9th and 10th cavalry and the 38th, 39th, 40th and 41st infantry regiments. www.buffalosoldiermuseum.com (713) 942-8920

G. W. Bradford all school 2012 Reunion Scheduled June 15 th - 16th, 2012



L to R - Charlsie Foreman Session, Lola Ward Mallard, Joe Nelson, Daisy Session Garner, Travis Matthews, Sandra Jones Brown, Melvin Session, Sarai Johnson, Carolyn Bennett Matthews, and Maxine Burley Session. Picture from 1989 Reunion preparation. The group was part of a larger group attending the Bradford reunion choir rehearsal at Mt. Pleasant church in Rusk..

The Twelfth Bi-Annual G. W. Bradford All School Reunion has been set for the weekend of June 15th and 16th of this year. Letters making the announcement went out the first weekend in March. The reunion committee does not have addresses on all former faculty, staff and students conected to the school, therefore, they are asking those who received letters to copy and mail and e-mail to those on which they have contact information.

Theme for the 2012 Reunion is "Cruising back to the fifties" with an emphasis on keeping the reunion simple and fun for all.

Those needing additional information should contact: Helen Colston Boston, President of the Rusk Chaper G. W. Bradford Alumni Association and Reunion Committee Chairperson, Marie Simmons Ealy, Dallas Chapter President or Lawanda Waggoner Rasberry Houston Chapter.

Registration information can be obtained from any committee member or e-mail: informernews08@aol.com Mailing address: Reunion 2012, P. O. Box 942, Rusk, Texas 76785

Austin Bank Named "One of Best Companies to Work for in Texas 2012"



Picture left to right:

Front: Lisa McCoy, Jeff Austin III, Rep. Chuck Hopson, Senator Robert Nichols, Patty Steelman
Back: Maria Davenport, John P. Williams, Russ Gideon, Keith Chamber, Gay Higdon

Austin Bank Named "One of Best Companies to Work for in Texas 2012" Austin Bank was recently selected as one of the Best Companies to Work for in Texas 2012. The bank was recognized and honored at an awards ceremony on Thursday, February 2, at the Texas Association of Business 2012 Annual Conference in Austin. This is the fourth year for Austin Bank to receive this award. The awards program was created in 2006 and is a project of TEXAS MONTHLY, the Texas Association of Business (TAB), the Texas State Council of the Society for Human Resource Management (TSC-SHRM) and Best Companies Group. Companies from across the state entered the two-part process to determine the Best Companies to Work for in Texas. The 2012 list is comprised of 100 companies which benefit the state's economy, its workforce and businesses. "Austin Bank is especially proud to receive this honor because it came from the input of our employees," said Jeff Austin III, Vice Chairman of the Board. "The success of our bank has been built by a wonderful team of dedicated, professional employees. Our employees are the face of Austin Bank not only within the bank going the extra mile to serve our customers but also out in our communities helping others. To support our employees and their vital contributions, it is our goal to provide the best possible workplace environment," said Austin. "Every employee is encouraged to continue learning and developing their career, and to become involved in their local community in order to make the best place to work also be the best to live and the best place to bank." Austin Bank is a community bank with \$1.3 billion in assets. Headquartered in Jacksonville, Texas, Austin Bank serves the needs of families and businesses with more than 400 employees in 31 locations, 21 cities and ten counties. During 2011, Austin Bank employees gave countless hours of volunteer service, and the bank contributed more than \$380,000 in direct support of local education, the arts, literacy, health and housing needs. Austin Bank is locally owned and operated by the Austin Family who is celebrating 103 years of serving the banking industry.

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TJC School of Nursing now taking applications for the Fall Semester

According to the Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies, there is projected to be a need for 71,000 nurses by 2020.

Tyler Junior College School of nursing is helping to supply nurses to meet the growing need. Applications are now being taken for classes at the Lindale, Tyler, Jacksonville and Rusk campus locations. For information, please call (903) 510-2662

OBITUARIES

Evelyn Marie Derrick

On Monday February 20, 2012, funeral services were held at Evergreen Memorial Funeral Home for Mrs. Evelyn Marie Derrick. Marie passed away from this life February 15, 2012 in Dallas, Texas. She accepted Christ and joined the Liberty Baptist Church under the pastorage of the late Rev. Earnest Freeney. Preceding her in death were her parents George Washington Hamilton and Sarah Francis Hamilton, son Wardell William Page, Sr.; sister Vera Reed and brother Earnest Hamilton.

She leaves to cherish her memories husband Charles Derrick, daughters Warnett Marie and LaSonya; Step-son Corey (Shawn); Step-daughter Nicole; grandchildren Jessie, Jessica, Jamicia, Wardell William, Jr., Deandrea, Shardell and Xavier; Sisters Evaline, Shirley Ann, Venitia, Carol Jean; devoted friends Valeria, Shawn and Warren Henderson, Jr. (Warnett's father) and a host of aunts, uncles, nephews, neices, cousins and other relatives and friends

Interracial marriages on the rise

Interracial marriages reached an all-time high in 2010, according to a study just released on Social and Demographic Trends project by the Pew Research Center. "The upward trend of intermarriage is many decades old," said Russ Oates of the Pew Center. "Marriage across racial and ethnic lines continues to be on the rise in the United States. Just as intermarriage has become more common, Americans' growing acceptance of intermarriage is echoed on a personal level." The report tracks data from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) in 2008-2010, the most recent year data is available, on newlyweds who marry spouses of a different race or ethnicity, and compares couples who "marry out" with those who "marry in."

Nationwide, 8.4 percent or one in 12 of all marriages in the U.S. are between spouses of a different race or ethnicity, the report found. That's more than double the share in 1980, the first year Census data on interracial marriages is available, when 3 percent of newlywed couples were interracial. About 15 percent of newlyweds in 2010 alone were interracial couples. The Pew Center noted "sharp differences" in what groups chose to marry outside their race. Black men are more than twice as likely as Black women to marry someone outside their race. Nearly a quarter of all Black male newlyweds in 2010 married outside their race, compared with just 9 percent of Black female newlyweds. About one in six Black newlyweds married outside their race.

Cecil Juanita Price Frazier

February 25, 1909 - February 6, 2012

Funeral services were held February 11, 2012 At Mt. Pleasant CME Church in Rusk, Texas for Ms. Cecil Juanita Price Frazier. She was born in the Elm Grove Community of Rusk, Texas on February 25, 1909 to Finus and Arzella Henderson Price. Her mother passed away when she was four years old. She was raised by her mother's sister Fannie and her husband Bennett Price. The family lived on a farm off Bagley Road and was members of Mt. Mariah CME Church. Ceclil attended school at Iron Hill School through early high school. Iron Hill was not a finishing school, so at age 16 she moved to live with her father in Lufkin. and completed hisch school at Lufkin Colored School which was later named Dunbar High.

In 1929 she married Carl Bell. They had one daughter, Doris Jean Bell (McCullough). The family moved to Houston where they joined Bebe Tabernacle CME Church and she went to work at Herman Hospital. While working at the hospital, she attended nursing school and became a Licensed Vocational Nurse. In the mid 1960's her sister Thelma and brother-in-law William Hicks moved back to Rusk and convinced Cecil, her

daughter Doris and grandchildren to move back also. She went to work at Oak Park Care Center where she retired after 40 years in nursing. Cecil joined Mt. Pleasant CME Church in Rusk and remained a faithful member serving on the Missionary Society, finance committee and as Church Mother" until her health failed. She was an avid reader who took time to read her bible everyday. Mrs. Frazier entered eternal rest on Monday morning February 6, 2012 at ETMC Jacksonville.

She was preceded in death by her husband, daughter Doris, one grandson Larry McCullough, two brothers and three sisters.

She leaves to cherish her memories : Three grandsons Reginal (Butch) McCullough, Randy McCullough both of Houston, Gregory (Scooter) McCullough of Rusk; a special cousin Inez Reeder Conley of Rusk; a large number of grandchildren, great-grandchildren, great-great grandchildren, neices, nephews and friends.

A special thank you to Sylvia, her longtime caretaker. Service were provided by Mercy McGowan Funeral Home and Interment was at the Mt. Mariah Cemetery CR 1304, Rusk, Texas.

Hawaii has the largest rate of interracial marriages, where four out of 10 weddings between 2008 and 2010 were between interracial couples, mostly White and Asian mixed couples.

The West had the highest number of interracial marriages between 2008 and 2010, where 22 percent, or approximately one in five marriages, were between people of different races, followed by 14 percent in the South.

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Comptroller awards \$3 million for cutting-edge training equipment in Texas community colleges

(Austin) — Texas Comptroller Susan Combs announced that 11 community colleges and technical institutes will receive \$3 million in grants to buy equipment to train students in critical workforce skills. The new round of grants comes from the Jobs and Education for Texans (JET), a career training grant program administered by the Comptroller's office since 2009. "The hands-on training students get with JET-purchased equipment can help them enter the job market quickly," Combs said. "Students around Texas are learning valuable skills to fill technical positions in engineering, science, computer-aided precision production, healthcare and other industries. Institutions estimate that equipment bought with JET grants will train approximately 54,000 students over the life of that equipment." The newest equipment grants go to the following:

Applicant	Location	Related Training Program	Grant Amount
Brazosport College	Lake Jackson	Electrician	\$288,325
Hill College	Hillsboro	Welding Technician	\$282,281
Lee College	Baytown	Electrician	\$314,193
Corsicana College	Geological & Petroleum	Technician	\$150,176
Northeast Texas Community College	Mt. Pleasant	Dental Hygienist	\$202,785
South Texas College	McAllen	Registered Nurse	\$336,229
Temple College	Temple	Registered Nurse	\$335,580
Texarkana College	Texarkana	Welding Technician	\$289,248
Texas State Technical College	Marshall	Marshall Network & Computer Systems Administrator	\$349,734
Texas State Technical College	Waco	Waco Mechanical Engineering Technician	\$290,939
Weatherford College	Weatherford	HVAC Mechanics & Installers	\$170,786
Total			\$3,010,276

Since 2009, community colleges and technical institutes have been awarded \$13 million to buy career training equipment. More information on the JET program can be found at <http://www.everychanceeverytexan.org/funds/index.php>.

Dearly Departed Auditions

by Roy Reynolds

If you've ever longed for "the smell of the greasepaint; the roar of the crowd," make plans to audition for Cherokee Civic Theatre's Spring comedy, "Dearly Departed." Director Teresa Ragland will be looking for 6 men and 8 women, ages 18+; plus 3 Gospel singers, either male or female.

No experience, monologue or headshots necessary. Auditions will take place at the Cherokee Civic Theatre in Rusk on Saturday, March 3rd from 3pm-6pm; and on Sunday, March 4th from 2pm-5pm. If you'd like to be a back-of-the-scenes person who can hammer a nail, wield a paint brush, turn on lights, ect, we'd love to have you volunteer to be part of our production.

In this hilarious tale, the dysfunctional Turpin family tries to deal with Daddy's funeral! You'll find that living and dying can be nothing short of hysterically funny! "Dearly Departed," by David Bottrell and Jessie Jones will be performed May 18, 19, 20, 25 & 26 at the historic Cherokee Civic Theatre, 157 W. 5th Street in Rusk. For further information, call 903-683-2131 or visit their website: www.cherokeetheatre.net.

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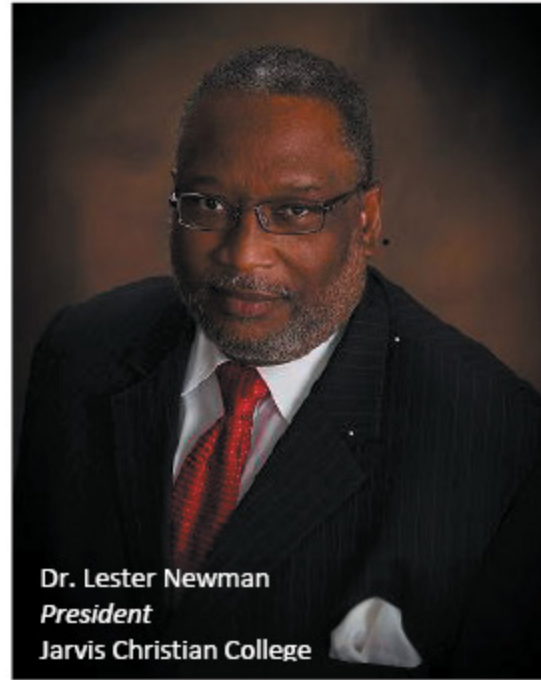
Texas College Founder's Day

Tyler, Texas - On Friday, March 16, 2012 at 10:00 a.m., the Texas College family will assemble for its annual Founder's Convocation in the Martin Hall Auditorium on the Texas College campus. In celebration of 118 years of existence, Texas College will adopt the theme "Honoring the Past, Embracing the Future" to commemorate this event with keynote speaker Dr. Jerry L. Christian, Sr. Dr. Jerry L. Christian, Sr. is the visionary pastor of Kirkwood Temple Christian Methodist Episcopal (C.M.E) Church. A native of Booneville, MS, Dr. Christian is a graduate of the University of Mississippi where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in Social Studies and Psychology. His graduate work included Psychology studies at Mississippi State University and the University of Mississippi. He received the Master of Divinity from Memphis Theological Seminary in 1987 with specialization in Homiletics and Pastoral Counseling. He then earned the Doctor of Ministry degree from McCormick Theological Seminary in 1994. In addition, Dr. Christian is licensed as a Certified Counselor. Since 1982, Dr. Christian has pastored and held offices within the C.M.E. Church, having served as Chair of the Joint Board of Finance for East Mississippi, West Tennessee, and Dallas Fort Worth Annual Conferences. As president of the Board of Christian Education for the East Mississippi Annual Conference, he set curriculum and educational programs for the conference. He has served as President of the C.M.E. Minister's Alliance of the Greater Memphis Area, and a C.M.E. Convocation Seminar instructor. In addition, he was a delegate to the World Methodist Council in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Dr. Christian is also a member of the General Conference Committee on Episcopacy. Ever busy, Dr. Christian is the past President of the Greater North Texas C.M.E. Minister's Alliance and President of the DFW African-American Pastors Coalition. In addition, he is a member of the Religious Task Force for the Dallas Independent School District, the Episcopacy Committee of the C.M.E. Church, Texas Advisory Committee on Religion, Vice Chairman of the Trustee Board at Texas College, Vice President for the Dallas Faith Coalition advisor to the Mayor's Commission for Minority Community Improvement. In 2007, Dr. Christian was appointed by the Dallas City Council to represent Dallas on the Dallas Area Rapid Transportation (DART) Board of Directors. Dr. Christian is also gives of himself to the community at large, having been a member of the Advisory Board for the Mississippi Cooperative Extension Program and Child Abuse Task Force of the Prentiss County Department of Public Welfare. He is also a lifetime member of the NAACP and a member of Who's Who.

Dr. Lester C. Newman Appointed 12th President of Jarvis Christian College Hawkins, Texas

The Jarvis Christian College Board of Trustees has unanimously selected Dr. Lester C. Newman to serve as 12th President of Jarvis Christian College, Hawkins, Texas. With this presidential selection, along with Dr. Newman's proven track record, it will enable us to achieve academic excellence and student success. Dr. Newman will begin his position April 2, 2012.

Dr. Newman currently serves as the executive Assistant to the President and Director of Administrative Management Programs of Wiley College, a Historically Black College in Marshall, Texas. In his current role, Dr. Newman serves as a member of the President's Cabinet and the Vice President's Council.



Dr. Lester Newman
President
Jarvis Christian College

Dr. Newman brings extensive experience in higher education administration and academics to the campus. Prior to work at Wiley College, he served as the Vice President of Academic Affairs and Associate Vice President for Development at Lane College, Jackson Tennessee; served as a consultant for higher education; President and Professor of Political Science at Mississippi Valley State University, Charlotte, North Carolina. In his career, he also served as Vice President for Academic Affairs and Professor; Dean of Arts

and Sciences and Associate Professor; and Assistant Professor and Associate Director of Institutional Self-Study.

Dr. Newman received his Bachelor's degree in Political Science from Southern University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and his Master's Degree and Doctor of Philosophy in Political Science from Atlanta University, Atlanta, Georgia.

Dr. Newman has received a host of honors, awards and recognitions; he has over fifty noted presentations and publications accompanied by over twenty-one professional memberships in highly esteemed associations, institutes, consortiums and organizations in higher education. Dr. Newman and his wife Gloria are the proud parents of three children and seven grandchildren.

Justice from page 2

Perez later said, "The second time I reached him, the way he acted; yes, I was, for a split second I was nervous until I saw the little girl and all fear was out the window after that, I didn't have no fear. I wasn't thinking of me no more. I was just thinking we need to get that little girl to safety." He added, "I wasn't going to give up; I couldn't give up." So Perez kept pursuing him. The abductor was pushing the little girl down. Victor was able to force him off the road and rescue the little girl. In 2012 the 16.4 million children suffering hunger, homelessness and poverty, or the 4 million eligible but uninsured children in need of health care, or all the children who need a spot in Head Start or child care or after school or summer programs .

Like Victor, each of us have to do what we can to help rescue a child. July 22 through July 25, the Children's Defense Fund is hosting its first national conference since 2003. We seek to gather more than 3,000 leading advocates for children and the poor to this conference. We need to speak and stand up and protect voiceless, voteless children from being the first victims of budget assaults while the rich and powerful continue to receive huge and unfair government welfare subsidies and tax cuts they neither deserve, earned, nor need. We need to demand that all of us contribute our fair share as federal and state budgets are debated. Marian Wright Edelman is the president of the Children's Defense Fund. For more information contact her at cdf_interns@childrensdefense.org.

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